

Message Text

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12

ACTION OPR-02

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SY-05 PM-04 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 SS-15 A-01 /045 W

----- 119021

R 211000Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8838

INFO AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMEBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 5770

NEW DELHI FOR RSO; KARCHI FOR RSSO

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ASEC, AMER, BG

SUBJ: TROUBLE IN BANGLADESH - E&E PLANNING

REF: DACCA E&E PLAN, DATED DECEMBER 4, 1974

1. EVENTS HERE OVER THE LAST EIGHTEEN DAYS HAVE DMONSTRATED UNMISTAKEABLY THE FRAGILE SECURITY SITUATION WHICH EXISTS IN BANGLADESH. WHILE QUIET HAS LARGELY RETURNED, THE REMINDER PROVIDED BY THE COUP, COUNTERCOUP, AND MILITARY MUTINY HAS COMPELLED US TO REVIEW IN DETAIL OUR E&E PLAN, AND TO INSURE THAT OUR READINESS TO PUT ANY ONE OF ITS PHASES INTO OPERATION IS AS COMPLETE AS MAY BE POSSIBLE. PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES CLEARLY SUGGEST THAT THERE IS NO NEED NOW FOR ANY IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN BUT NOVEMBER 3 AND ITS AFTERMATH MAKE IT IMPERATIVE THAT WE BE FULLY PREPARED TO ACT IMMEDIATELY IF NEED BE.

2. IN CONNECTION WITH THIS PLANNING, AND WITH THE EXTREMELY HELPFUL ASSISTANCE AND ADVICE OF RSO SPAULDING WHO VISITED THIS WEEK, THE EMBASSY IS TAKING THE FOLLOWING STEPS:

(A) WE HAVE UPDATED OUR LISTING OF AMCITS IN BANGLADESH.

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WE CURRENTLY ESTIMATE THAT THERE ARE 800 AMCITS IN BANGLADESH

WHO ARE POTENTIAL EVACUEES. WE DO NOT FORESEE THAT FSLE'S WOULD BE IN JEOPARDY BY REASON OF THEIR ASSOCIATION WITH USG AND THEREFORE EVACUATION OF FSLE'S IS NOT BEING CONSIDERED AT THIS TIME.

(B) WE HAVE REVISED ANNEX D OF REFERENCED E&E PLAN AND WILL HOLD PRELIMINARY MEETING WITH NEW WARDENS ON 21 NOV.

(C) PREFERRED MEANS OF EVACUATION IS BY AIR FROM DACCA AIRPORT WHICH SERVES THE FOLLOWING CITIES:

- (1) CALCUTTA,
- (2) NEW DELHI,
- (3) BANGLKOK,
- (4) KATHMANDU.

(D) ASSEMBLY AREAS HAVE BEEN DESIGNATED:

- (1) ALAM APARTMENTS, DHANMONDI AREA, DACCA;
- (2) AMERICAN CLUB, GULSHAA AREA, DACCA.

(E) DACCA HAS TWO AIRPORTS:

- (1) MAIN DACCA AIRPORT LOCATED NEXT TO CANTONMENT, 10 TO 12 KM NORTH OF EMBASSY, BUT NEAR TO PRINCIPAL

RESIDENTIAL AREAS.

(2) "NEW AIRPORT" LOCATED 30 KM NORTH OF EMBASSY. THIS STILL INCOMPLETE AIRPORT HAS A 10,000 FOOT RUNWAY IN EXCELLENT CONDITION BUT NO FURTHER FACILITIES.

(F) ROUTES FROM THE TWO STAGING AREAS TO THE TWO AIRPORTS HAVE BEEN DESIGNATED AS WELL AS ROUTES FROM HOUSING AREAS TO DESIGNATED AREAS.

3. EVACUATION FROM DACCA BY LAND ROUTES IS DEEMED INADVISABLE BECAUSE OF DETERIORATED CONDITION OF RURAL ROADS, THE NEED OF FUELING FACILITIES EN ROUTE. WE WOULD PREFER TO STAY IN DACCA RATHER THAN HAZARD A LAND COVOY IN BANGLADESH.

4. WE WOULD HOPE TO ACCOMPLISH ANY EVACUATION IN ORDERLY STAGES WITH DEPENDENTS BEING FLOWN OUT ON COMMERCIAL CARRIERS PRIOR TO ANY COMPLETE BREAKDOWN OF LAW AND ORDER. THE SUDDENESS WITH WHICH ANY SEMBLANCE OF ORDER HERE CAN DETERIORATE FORCES US TO PLAN FOR AN EVACUATION OF COMPLETE FAMILIES. THIS COULD WELL INVOLVE NEED FOR MILITARY AIRLIFT.

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5. SHOULD LAW AND ORDER DETERIORATE, AS IT HAS A HISTORY OF DOING HERE, WE ENVISION THE POSSIBILITY OF HAVING UP TO 500 AMCITS LOCATED AT THE AMERICAN CLUB, AWAITING EVACUATION. WE CONSIDER THE AMERICAN CLUB TO LEND ITSELF AS A HOLDING OR ASSEMBLY AREA BECAUSE OF ITS COOKING FACILITIES, WATER SUPPLY; SPACIOUS GROUND, PROXIMITY TO THE AIRPORTS AND RELATIVE ISOLATION FROM THE MILITARY CANTONMENT AND RADIO STATIONS.

6. IT IS REQUESTED THAT THE DEPARTMENT FURNISH THE EMBASSY WITH THE FOLLOWING SUPPORT IN OUR CURRENT PREPARATIONS:

(A) INITIATE COORDINATION WITH DOD TO DETERMINE THE FOLLOWING:

(1) TYPE OF MILITARY AIRCRAFT WHICH MIGHT BE REQUIRED FOR AN EVACUATION.

(2) LOCATION FROM WHICH THEY WOULD ORIGINATE.

(3) ADVANCE ALERT TIME REQUIRED FOR NOTIFICATION OF EVACUATION AIRCRAFT.

(4) INITIATE PRELIMINARY COORDINATION WITH PRIVATE US AIR CARRIERS TO DETERMINE FEASIBILITY OF USING CHARTER AIRCRAFT FOR EVACUATION.

7. THE SITUATION OVER THE PAST TWO WEEKS POINTS OUT THE URGENT NEED TO STOCKPILE EMERGENCY RATIONS AT THE TWO ASSEMBLY POINTS ESTABLISHED IN THE E&E PLAN. RATIONS ARE AVAILABLE AT THE US COMMISSARY, BANGKOK; HOWEVER POST HAS NO AVAILABLE FUNDS TO MAKE PURCHASE. RATIONS CONSIDERED ARE MEAL COMBAT IND. TYPE II, 12 MEALS/CASE, WT. 55 LBS. PER CASE. WE REQUIRE 600 CASES. COST: \$2,850.00.; AIR FREIGHT: \$5,588.00; TOTAL: \$8,500.00. FOR POLITICAL REASONS WE RECOMMEND THESE NOT BE BROUGHT IN BY US MILITARY AIRCRAFT.

8. THE BRITISH HICOM HAS INITIATED A HIGHLY PRELIMINARY DIALOGUE WITH US ON THIS SUBJECT AND WE ANTICIPATE ONGOING ASSESSMENTS WITH THEM AND OTHER MISSIONS IN THIS REGARD.

9. EMBASSY WILL KEEP DEPARTMENT ADVISED AS WE CONTINUE OUR PLANNING FOR ANY EVACUATION.

10. DEPARTMENT COMMENTS WOULD BE WELCOMED.

CHESLAW

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